



Frontex training infrastructure

Abolish Frontex Research Group briefing – November 2025

With the expansion of Frontex's mandate, budget and organisation, especially since 2015, the agency's training infrastructure has also gradually grown. It now includes a plethora of trainings, courses, workshops and exercises for Frontex personnel as well as employees of border authorities of EU member states and, in some cases, third countries in- and outside Europe. Many of these activities take place on ad hoc locations, such as EU external border crossing points (including airports), or online.¹ This briefing lists permanent Frontex training locations, for its Standing Border Guard Corps trainings, its Partnership Academies network and its Joint Master's programme.

Training Centre for European Border Guards in Warsaw

In June 2025 Frontex announced it would open a new training centre for border guards for its European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps – an armed border police force - in Warsaw, after signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Polish government.² The centre will provide the Entry Level Training Programme for the Standing Corps Category 1 officers, border guards directly employed by Frontex, with the option of adding other types of trainings in the future.³

The original plan was to locate the training centre at the University of Physical Education, which in the past had previously already provided 'physical aptitude testing' for candidates for Frontex's Standing Corps.⁴ However, no agreement could be concluded, and Frontex announced entry-level training for the first group of candidate Standing Corps officers would start in late 2025 at its own premises in the Polish capital, with separate arrangements for use of sports facilities. The agency announced it will launch an open call for tenders in 2026 to obtain a permanent, long-term location in Warsaw.⁵

In the autumn of 2025 Frontex also opened calls for tenders regarding firearms and use of force trainings for its Standing Corps Category 1 officers. One of the conditions is that the training location is within 50 kilometres of Frontex's headquarters in Warsaw, so this will also be in Poland. Frontex estimates a contract value of €2.3 million for the 'provision of facilities (shooting range), equipment and ammunition for firearms training' and one of €0.7 million for 'provision of facilities and equipment for restraint techniques training' for two years, with the option of prolonging it once for another two years. In November Frontex announced that both initial tender procedures had ended, with no suitable offerings.⁶

Standing Corps training

According to Frontex, 'Training for members of the European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps will be conducted fully or partly within the probationary period. The training aims to ensure that members of the Standing Corps have the necessary theoretical and practical competences, including in relation to the prevention of violence and use of force, to operate in a unitary manner in any particular operational area, fully enforcing the provisions of the Schengen Borders Code, at the same time respecting fundamental rights in all actions.' Trainings are in English, with no interpretation provided.⁷

So far, the basic six-month training programmes for the Standing Corps have regularly taken place in:

- Spain: National Police Training and Improvement Division in Ávila⁸
- Portugal: training centre of the Portuguese Maritime Police Authority in Almada (Lisbon)⁹
- Italy: Guardia di Finanza academy in Bari.¹⁰

Course materials aren't publicly available. However, Statewatch obtained some training manuals and other course materials through an Access to Documents request a couple of years ago.¹¹ These included trainings on border control, border security and deportations, with extensive attention for training in the use of firearms, force and coercive measures. The Training Programme (2019) for the Standing Corps Category 1 officers - those directly employed by Frontex - consists of 'six (6) thematically divided modules. The land, airport and sea border related studies are integrated into modules:

1. Generic studies;
2. Legal basis of border and coast guard activities
3. Border checks and return;
4. Border surveillance;
5. Cross-border crime and investigation;
6. Tactical and force measures.¹²

In October 2025 Frontex announced a future contract procedure for the ' for the provision of specialized consultancy services to support the implementation of firearms shooting instructors training activities.¹³

Partnership academies

From its establishment in 2005 Frontex has been working with so-called Partner Academies across the EU. 'support[ing] Frontex by hosting meetings and training activities and by promoting the share of expertise in education and training projects.'¹⁴ According to the agency, 'the main objective of the Partnership Academies is to facilitate cooperation with border and coast guard training institutions in the European Union, to create common educational standards and to modernise education and training systems in the field of border and coast guarding. Frontex will also deliver training activities preparing border guards for deployment in Frontex Joint Operations.' Next to this, it has initiated exchange programmes between the participating establishments.¹⁵

By 2010, according to then Executive Director Laitinen, there were 11 Partnership Academies across the EU, providing training for all member states.¹⁶ Seven years later the network had grown to 17 academies, with plans to expand with at least ten more, providing training to 'border guards at land, air and sea borders, as well as training of return experts'.¹⁷ Indeed, the network has continued to expand. In April 2021, in response to an Access to Documents request, Frontex provided a list of 38 Partnership Academies in 25 countries – all EU member states except Greece and Luxembourg, as well as Norway.¹⁸ By the end of 2024 the number had grown to 42 Partnership Academies.¹⁹

Frontex Partnership Academies (April 2021)

Country	City	
Austria	Vienna	SAIK – Federal Police Academy (Sicherheitsakademie)
Belgium	Brussels	National Police Academy of Belgium
Bulgaria	Sofia	Academy of Ministry of the Interior of Bulgaria
Croatia	Zagreb	Police Academy, General Police Directorate, Ministry of the Interior
Cyprus	Nicosia	Cyprus Police Academy
Czech Rep.	Prague	Police Education and Training Unit, Police of the Czech Republic
Denmark	Brøndby	Danish National Police Academy
Estonia	Tallinn	Estonian Academy of Security Sciences
	Tallinn	Tallinn University of Technology Estonian Maritime Academy [TalTech]
Finland	Imatra	Border and Coast Guard Academy
France	Lyon	Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Police (ENSP)
Germany	Lübeck	German Federal Police Academy
	Neustadt	German Federal Police Maritime Education and Training Centre (MaST)
Hungary	Budapest	National University of Public Service
	Szeged	Police Education and Training centre, Police Training Academy, Patrol Training Department
Italy	Cesena	State Police Training Centre – for the activities of Traffic Police, Railway Police, Immigration and Border Police, Postal and Communication Police
	Ilido di Ostia	Scuola di Polizia Economico-Finanziaria, Guardia di Finanze
	Messina	Italian Coast Guard – Centro di formazione specialistica VTMI ed attività operative del Comando generale del Corpo delle capitanerie di porto
	Rome	Interagency Law-Enforcement College of Advanced Studies (Scuola di Perfezionamento per le Forze di Polizia Messina)
Latvia	Rezekne	State Border Guard College
Lithuania	Medininkai	State Border Guard Service
	Vilnius	Mykolas Romeris University Academy of Public Security
Malta	Valletta	University of Malta
Netherlands	Badhoevedorp	Border Security Training Centre, Royal Netherlands Marechaussee
	Eindhoven	IDcentre
Norway	Oslo	The Norwegian Police University College
Poland	Gdynia	Polish Naval Academy
	Lubań	Border Guard Centre for Specialised Training
Portugal	Barcarena	Immigration and Border Service (SEF), Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras
	Lisbon	Higher Institute of Police Sciences and Internal Security
	Queluz	School of the Guard of the Portuguese Guarda Nacional Republicana
Romania	Bucharest	“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy, Border Police faculty, Border Police, Immigration, Passports and Schengen Training department
	Bucharest	General Inspectorate of Romanian Border Police
Slovakia	Bratislava	Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava
Slovenia	Ljubljana	Šmartno Police Academy
Spain	Madrid	General Directorate of the Police, Training and Development Division
	Madrid	Guardia Civil Borders and Maritime Police Command
Sweden	Stockholm	Swedish Police Authority

Joint Master's in Strategic Border Management

In 2012 Frontex started to develop a common higher education study programme for mid- and high-level border guards, in cooperation with a group of universities from several EU member states.²⁰ After contracting six higher education institutions to implement the programme in 2015, in June 2017 the first students were awarded their degrees - 'a joint diploma signed by all the academic partners and recognised internationally as a master's degree', after an 18 months course. Two more classes graduated in the next two years. After a prolonged process to conclude a new consortium agreement, only in September 2025 a new series of the programme, starting in January 2026, was announced.²¹ The current consortium consists of:

- Netherlands Defence Academy, Faculty of Military Science in Breda (the Netherlands)
- Estonian Academy of Security Sciences in Tallinn (Estonia)
- Rezekne Academy of Technologies in Rezekne (Latvia)
- Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius (Lithuania)
- University of Salamanca in Salamanca (Spain)

According to Frontex, the Joint Master's, for which students need security clearance from a national authority, is 'designed to enable mid- to high-level border guard managers across the EU to advance the practice and theory of European border management and to encourage further developments in the field', based on 'the strong demand for higher standards of education in the border management sector'. While the agency emphasises the inclusion of 'fundamental rights' in the curriculum,²² this is limited to one course, making up only five of the 90 (or 60 without the dissertation) total study credits. The other courses address practical, technological, and strategic approaches to 'border management'.²³

Border externalisation and training

Frontex also provides training and education to border authorities from non-EU-countries. This includes both training and courses specifically for them as well participation from their employees in EU-focused courses. In 2024 for example participants from Ukraine, Moldova, Kosovo and Türkiye joined an European Course for Canine Teams.²⁴

Frontex's network of Partnership Academies has extended well beyond the EU, Frontex has reported since 2023, including partners in Albania, Georgia, Montenegro and Ukraine, and 'is ready to expand further to other interested third countries'.²⁵ In October 2025 the Agency for Education and Professional Training of Personnel in candidate member state Bosnia and Herzegovina entered the partnership network.²⁶ According to the European External Action Service in 2022 Frontex and its Partnership Academies should enhance their role 'in civilian CSDP mission training, specifically in the area of border management', possibly also in non-EU-countries.²⁷

The network also plays a role in Frontex's border-externalisation efforts as a location for workshops for and study visits from border guard authorities from North Africa and the Middle East (MENA),²⁸ for example as part of its EU4BorderSecurity project.²⁹ This project aims to strengthen border-security capacities in these regions, and received €6.5 million from the European Neighbourhood Instrument.³⁰ In March 2020, for instance, border guards from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco made a study visit on 'dialogue and cooperation' to the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences.³¹

As part of the EU4BorderSecurity project, Frontex has also entered into cooperation with the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), 'the academic body of the Arab Interior Ministers Council' in Riyadh, where it enjoys 'unlimited financial and moral support' from the Saudi royal family, one of the world's most authoritarian regimes.³² Training of security forces in Arab

countries is an important part of the university's programme, and is where Frontex has stepped in. Institutional contacts date back to at least 2020, amidst Saudi Arabia's active role in the Yemen War.³³ Since then several joint workshops on issues as document fraud.³⁴ In May 2023 later a joint seminar on 'Integrated Border Management' was organised at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Support in El Alamein (Egypt), with participants from Libya and Sudan.³⁵ NAUSS is most closely associated with the Saudi regime, including a cooperation agreement with the Directorate General for Border Guards.³⁶ In 2017 45 women border guard graduates of NAUSS, to be deployed at Saudi's borders, received training in Germany from the German federal police.³⁷ Saudi Arabia carries out its own harsh migration policies, systematically killing Ethiopian refugees on its border with Yemen.³⁸ In October 2022 several Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups of the United Nations raised the alarm, reporting that 'Saudi security forces use sniper attacks of migrants in small groups, mortars or shelling of migrants in larger groups and shooting of migrants caught in Saudi territory', as well as allegations of systematic torture and sexual abuse.³⁹

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- 3 Frontex (17 September 2025), response to the second question for written answer E-002689/2025, received from MEP Özlem Demirel on 14 July 2025. Available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002689-ASW-ANN02_EN.pdf
- 4 Frontex (2021) 'Annual list of low and middle value contracts concluded by Frontex in 2020'. Available at: https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Key_Documents/Contracts_awarded/2020/Low_Middle_value_contracts.pdf; Frontex (2022) 'Annual list of low and middle value contracts concluded by Frontex in 2021'. Available at: <https://prd.frontex.europa.eu/document/low-and-middle-value-contracts-2021/>
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- 6 <https://ted.europa.eu/en/notice/-/detail/740918-2025>; <https://ted.europa.eu/en/notice/-/detail/739942-2025>
- 7 <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/careers/standing-corps/training/>
- 8 <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/multimedia/photos/basic-training-for-standing-corps-in-avila-spain-CXlaPU>
- 9 <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/48-new-cadets-to-join-the-eu-border-guard-PxyS5z>; https://www.linkedin.com/posts/frontex_today-at-warsaw-castle-we-proudly-welcomed-activity-7344371279891722240-ffYY/
- 10 https://www.linkedin.com/posts/frontex_frontex-training-standingcorps-activity-6798260916669464576-hbru/
- 11 <https://www.statewatch.org/observatories/frontex/access-to-documents-requests/training-materials-and-good-practice-for-return-operations/>
- 12 Frontex (2 October 2019) 'European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps Category 1 - Training Programme'. Available at: <https://www.statewatch.org/media/1560/european-border-and-coast-guard-standing-corps-category-1-training-programme.pdf>
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- 18 <https://abolishfrontex.org/frontex-partnership-academies/>
- 19 Frontex (September 2025) 'Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2024'. Available at: https://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/General/CAAR_2024_Official_Publication.pdf
- 20 Frontex (2013) 'General Report 2012'. Available at: https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Key_Documents/Annual_report/2012/EN_General_Report_2012.pdf
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- 22 See, for example, <https://twitter.com/frontex/status/1144552412855898112>
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